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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP**  
**INTELLIGENCE REPORT**

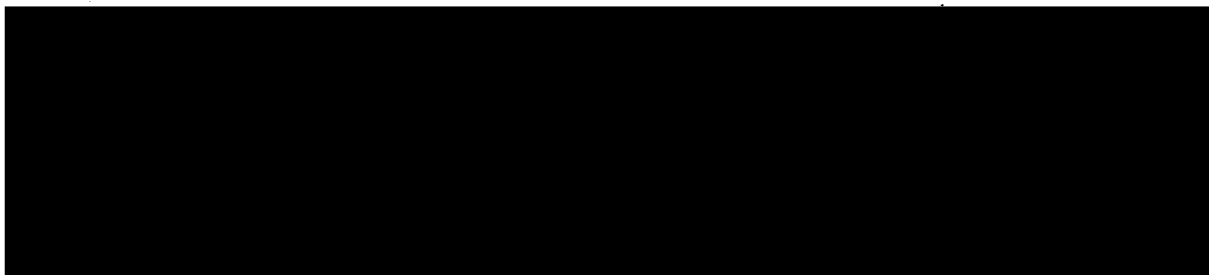
**COUNTRY** Czechoslovakia

**DATE:**  
INFO. 11 to 22 February, 1947

**SUBJECT** Unofficial Opinions of Czechoslovak Officials  
on Economic Policy

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**ORIGIN**           



1. Rudolf Bunzel, Director of the Omnia Trust Company in Prague and a personal friend of Hubert Ripka Minister of Foreign Trade, appears to be oriented to the West and at the same time, through his friendship with Ripka, as well as from his own official position in the bank, is able to observe the fundamental economic trends in his country. He commented that the political pressure of the Communists has driven Czechoslovakian domestic economy into a blind alley. It was his belief that nationalization, as well as the contracts requiring large-scale deliveries of goods to the Soviet Union, will seriously impair an otherwise generally healthy Czechoslovak domestic economy.
2. Bunzel stated that opposition to this disastrous policy was constantly growing, particularly in the industrial and wholesale commercial circles, and that if such opposition grows much farther it will assume the character of a full-fledged movement against this policy. The nucleus of this opposition is Ripka's Ministry of Foreign Trade which was the first to feel the impact of the present policy. Individuals within this Ministry are particularly bitter on the subject of Soviet seizure of the uranium mines in the vicinity of Jachimov (Jochimstal).
3. Dr. Martić, Section Chief Janda's deputy in the Ripka's Ministry, commented that Austrians with their admitted Western orientation were not able to obtain a large dollar loan. To this source replied that Austrians were not interested in obtaining a large loan before economic security was assured and that in any event, even without a loan, the moral support of the Western Powers had protected them from complete chaos. 25X1A

           Comment: This discussion indicated clearly that the Czechoslovak Republic observes closely how far the Western Powers help their friends and that the granting of a long-term loan to Austria could aid American efforts in Czechoslovakia).

4. At the time of the interview, Janda, Dr. Martić's chief, was in Yugoslavia on an official mission and Martić remarked that negotiations undertaken there had to be viewed from the standpoint of the politician as well as the economist.

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5. This last point was also made by another member of Ripka's Ministry, who is admittedly oriented to the West. As an example of the manner in which high political considerations are reflected in trade arrangements, the treaty between USSR and Yugoslavia was cited. While this treaty may have cemented the bonds of friendship between Yugoslavia and the USSR, the former sorely needs complete factory plants from Czechoslovakia in order to rebuild her industries, such as steel plants, sugar refineries, paper mills and the like. These can be paid for only on very long term contracts and the Yugoslav debt to Czechoslovakia will soon be very large without these large orders.
6. General Director Maloch, chief of all the nationalized coal mines in Czechoslovakia and one of the most powerful of the Czechoslovak economic leaders, was particularly favorable to the oil agreement between Czechoslovakia and Austria. He firmly believed that the treaty will bring economic freedom to Austria and that Czechoslovak leaders already consider the treaty as a fact. While agreeing in principle, General Director Martinek, head of the National Chemical Industry, was not quite so sure that the oil agreement could be considered adopted, for he stated that he was prepared to give Austria his support in the event that the USSR presented any difficulties in concluding the transaction. He stated that he was sending one of his directors to Vienna to support the Austrian negotiators in their dealings with USIVA (Administration of Soviet Property in Eastern Austria).

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Comment: For further information on Austrian - Czechoslovak economic relations, see [REDACTED]

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